Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196179

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DRAFTED BY L/M/SCA:HFSHAMWELL, JR.:MA APPROVED BY L/M/SCA:KEMALMBORG SCA - MR. FREDERICK SMITH, JR. NEA/INS - MR. HAWES NEA/INS - MR. KUX

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R 022336Z OCT 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 196179

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CGEN, IN

SUBJECT: CALCUTTA CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF: NEW DELHI 10423

- 1. REFTEL REQUESTED DEPT'S CONCURRENCE IN TRANSMISSION OF NOTE TO GOI STATING EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF JURISDICTION TO BE EXERCISED BY CONSULATE GENERAL CALCUTTA IN CERTAIN CONSULAR MATTERS. SPECIFICALLY, EMBASSY'S NOTE WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF COUNTERMANDING GOI NOTIFICATION THAT NEW CONSUL-GENERAL'S DISTRICT WOULD NOT INCLUDE NORTHEAST INDIA.
- 2. DEPT CONCURS IN EMBASSY'S PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION AND SEES AMPLE LEGAL JUSTIFICATION THEREFOR. EMBASSY THUS AUTHORIZED TRANSMIT PROPOSED NOTE. DISCUSSION FOLLOWS.
- 3. WHILE INDIA IS NOT A PARTY TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONFIDENTIAL $\,$

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 196179

CONSULAR RELATIONS OF 1963 (US HAS BEEN PARTY SINCE 1969),

IN DEPARTMENT'S VIEW RULES CONTAINED THAT CONVENTION WHICH ARE PERTINENT TO QUESTION AT ISSUE ARE DECLARATORY OF CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THUS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS BINDING EVEN IN ABSENCE FORMAL TREATY RELATIONSHIP. UNDER ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE TREATY, QTE THE SEAT OF THE CONSULAR POST, ITS CLASSIFICATION AND THE CONSULAR DISTRICT SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SENDING

STATE AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE RECEIVING STATE. UNQTE THUS, WHILE THE RECEIVING STATE'S CONCURRENCE IS REQUIRED THERE IS NOTHING IMPROPER IN A NOTIFICATION BY THE SENDING STATE CONCERNING ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITS OF THE CONSULAR DISTRICT. THIS CONCLUSION APPLIES EVEN IN THE CASE OF A CHANGE IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT PROPOSED BY THE SENDING STATE. (SEE ART. 4, PARA 3.)

- 4. EMBASSY'S ATTENTION ALSO DIRECTED TO ART. 72(1) OF VIENNA CONVENTION WHICH PROVIDES THAT QTE IN THE APPLICATION OF THE PRESENT CONVENTION THE RECEIVING STATE SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE AS BETWEEN STATES. UNQTE WHILE THIS PROVISION DOES NOT REQUIRE ABSOLUTE EQUALITY AS AMONG STATES REGARDING SUCH MATTERS AS THE SIZE OF CONSULAR DISTRICTS, IT DOES IMPOSE UPON THE RECEIVING STATE THE OBLIGATION TO REFRAIN FROM ARBITRARY ACTION IN THIS REGARD.
- 5. BELIEVE TACTICALLY EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DROP FROM ITS PROPOSED NOTE SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR GOI CONFIRMATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDINGS (PARA 6 C, REFTEL) MAKING EMBASSY NOTE A SIMPLE STATEMENT OF OUR POSITION. KISSINGER

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